

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 AF-10 NEA-11 SAJ-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 TRSE-00

EB-11 OMB-01 DRC-01 EA-11 /164 W

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R 070752Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2907

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 667

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/80

TAGS: MARR, UK, IO, NL

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION

REF: STATE 22764 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY. GON HAS REACTED IN MATTER-OF-FACT FASHION TO UK AND US APPROACHES RE EXPANSION OF US FACILITIES ON DIEGO GARCIA, AND DOESN'T EXPECT MATTER WILL RECEIVE MUCH ATTENTION IN NETHS. END SUMMARY.

2. AS AGREED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PREVIOUS INSTRUCTIONS, UK EMB COUNSELOR NOTIFIED MFA'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR MIDDLE EAST/AFRICA ON FEB 5 OF PLANNED EXPANSION OF US FACILITIES ON DIEGO GARCIA, AND WE FOLLOWED UP ON FEB 6.

3. UK COUNSELOR TOLD US THAT AFTER HE HAD PRESENTED
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AGREED RATIONALE FOR EXPANSION TO MFA OFFICIAL,

COUNSELOR FIELDDED FEW QUESTIONS AND MFA OFFICIAL
WONDERED OUT LOUD WHAT INDIA'S REACTION TO SUCH MOVE
MIGHT BE.

4. IN FOLLOWING-UP WITH SAME OFFICIAL, WE ALSO
PRESENTED AGREED RATIONALE AND IN ADDITION READ HIM
TEXT OF US CONTINGENCY STATEMENT TO BE USED IN
RESPONSE PRESS QUZRIES. WE DREW FROM Q'S AND A'S IN
RESPONDING TO LIMITED NUMBER OF QUESTIONS.

5. MFA OFFICIAL SAID HE HAD ADVISED APPROPRIATE
MFA COLLEAGUES AND DUTCH NAVY OF EXPANSION PLANS.
HE DID NOT EXPECT THAT MUCH PUBLIC ATTENTION WOULD BE
ACCORDED MATTER IN NETHS. AFTER ALL, HE SAID,
EVERYONE KNOWS A FACILITY ALREADY EXISTS ON DIEGO
GARCIA AND THAT SOVIETS ARE OPERATING IN THE INDIAN
OCEAN. HE THOUGHT US ACTION WAS "NORMAL THING TO DO".
GOULD

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